Panel of Lawyers with STC and MMTC

2531. SHRI S. S. AHLUWALIA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is no criteria for ascertaining the competence of lawyers in the panel of STC and MMTC; if so, whether Government are contemplating to set any norms to ensure better quality of legal advice to these undertakings;

(b) how many litigations, including arbitration proceedings involving these undertakings, either as claimants or respondents, have been decided in their favour and against these undertakings with respective values, during the period 1st January, 1984 to 31st October, 1987; and

(c) what is the number of lost cases in which the Managements have settled the claims at the first instances instead of preferring appeals in the higher Courts?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES AND THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA): (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House, as soon as it becomes available.

Payment of Demurrage by STC

2532. SHRI S. S. AHLUWALIA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that pursuant to a contract finalised in 1976 for supply of special type cement to a third party in Iran, STC had shown undue promptness in respect of payment of huge demurrage claimed by the shippers, although the same was to be paid by the buying agents as per the terms; and

(b) whether to save the concerned STC Officials involved in that unauthorised payment, STC has now launched arbitration proceedings in the Indian Arbitration Council and whether the opposite party is participating in the Arbitration; if so, what are the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES AND THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI RAM NAWAS MIRDHA): (a) No, Sir. The shipments of special type of cement took place in March, 1976. Payment of demurrage was made by STC in January, 1980 in the light of arbitration award obtained by vessel owners against STC, in August, 1979.

(b) No, Sir. STC initiated arbitration proceedings against the buyers as per the conditions of the contract. After denying liability in response to the notice sent by Indian Council of Arbitration, New Delhi, the buyers has not been participating in the arbitration proceedings. The case has been posted for *ex parte* evidence of STC.

Cotton Buffer Stock

2533 SHRI RAJNI RANJAN SAHU:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have formulated a ten year plan for cotton buffer stocking; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

LIC loans for construction of houses

2534 SHRI VITHALBHAI MOTIRAM PATEL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Life Insurance Corporation has liberalised its policy for extending loans for the construction of houses;

(b) if so, what are the details of the liberalised policy; and